

REMEMBERING LARRY LEONG HONG

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Larry Leong Hong, who passed away peacefully on April 20, 2018, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in China in 1922, his family immigrated to Burma when he was an infant, to seek better fortune. Larry was the oldest son of six children; he had three sisters and two brothers. His family sent him back to China to get his schooling and to learn about his heritage and his culture. At age 13, shortly after he returned home to Burma, he left to seek a better future for himself and for his family. He came by himself to America, to the Golden Mountain, where it was believed the streets were paved with gold.

In 1935, when he arrived in America, he found no streets paved in gold bricks. Instead, he found a country in the grips of the Great Depression, and life was hard. But that did not deter him. He worked hard at the family restaurant. Larry learned the value of hard work, determination, and self-sufficiency. He worked in the restaurant until the clarion call of World War II. In 1942 Larry joined the war effort, working at a factory as an engine lathe operator and was promoted to be an inspector until he was called to serve. Larry—also known as Wing Q. Hong—was inducted into the Army of the United States on March 2, 1943. He was an infantryman and rose to TEC 4 as a cook. He served in the European theater, landing with his regiment in Normandy and went on to serve in Ardennes-Rhineland, Northern France, and Central Europe, serving as the acting mess sergeant for the officers. He was honorably discharged on October 19, 1945. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal AR 600-68 and the EAMETO Medal with one Silver Service Star. This patriotic and hard-working immigrant started a tradition of service to his country. All of his descendants and their spouses served this Nation, either in Active Duty as members of the military or as civilians. Upon discharge, Larry returned to civilian life and went back to the restaurant business. Two years after his discharge from the Army, his only son, Kenneth, was born.

He met the love of his life, Annette Moy, at the restaurant in which they both worked, and they were married in 1942. This was a love affair that lasted for almost 62 years, until his beloved wife passed in January of 2000. Even though Larry came to America by himself, as a young teen, when he married Annette, he married into the Moy Clan—very large, very tight-knit, and very loving family. He learned through Annette the value and the strong bonds of family. Larry was devoted to his immediate and extended family. He was generous, strong, dependable, and stable. He and his wife were the anchor for their very large family.

The family took every opportunity to gather together, whether it was to cel-

brate a holiday, to celebrate a special milestone or just to get together for a picnic. They were fun, and of course these gatherings always featured good food. Each weekend the extended family came together at one of the sisters' house to play mah-jongg, while the young children went to sleep to the sound of the click-clicking of the mah-jongg game. Larry loved good Chinese food; he especially loved lobster and Chinese-style chicken.

Larry was a fighter. He met several challenges throughout his life, and each time he fought it—and he won. His love of family, his love of food, his strength, and his fighting spirit will be missed.

Larry is survived by his son, Kenneth Leong Hong—wife Belkis—of Gaithersburg, MD, and his only granddaughter, Denise Williams—husband Dan—of National Harbor, MD.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ROHAN RAJEEV

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Rohan Rajeev, of Edmond, OK, a young man of exemplary character and talent. Rohan made history as the runner-up at the 2017 Scripps National Spelling Bee. In his first appearance at the bee, Rohan earned his position by qualifying from a pool of over 11 million students from around the world. In 2016, Rohan earned the distinction as the first speller from Oklahoma to win the Association of Christian Schools International Spelling Bee.

Rohan has used his skills to help and teach others. He has served as the first grand marshal of the Eastern Oklahoma State Spelling Bee, a nonprofit competition whose mission is to help students develop spelling and vocabulary skills. He has contributed to the community by volunteering and taking leadership positions in programs and organizations, including Oklahoma Student Voices and Youth and Government.

While his honors are many, I am most impressed by Rohan's humility and courage. He attributes his success to his faith in Jesus Christ, knowing that He has brought him thus far in life. Despite enduring the loss of his sister, Raina, to a severe neurological condition, Rohan continues to honor her memory by dedicating his performances to Raina, and she continues to inspire Rohan to pursue his dreams.

Congratulations, Rohan. I wish you well in your future endeavors, and I know your future is bright.●

VERMONT FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATION 2018 AWARDS

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, on April 27, 2018, the Vermont Federal Executive Association recognized several Federal employees in the State of Vermont with Excellence in Govern-

ment awards. At a time when many Federal agencies are being asked to do more work with fewer resources, it is important to recognize examples of exceptionally good work by members of the Federal workforce.

Vermont is fortunate to have close to 5,000 Federal employees working across the State, and I am proud of their commitment to public service. I would like to congratulate the 2018 Excellence in Government award winners who were chosen for this recognition by their peers in VTFEA.

The awards are as follows: Supervisor of the Year, Amanda Duquette, Office of Contracting, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Employee of the Year, Caitlin Moynihan, Homeland Security Investigations, Burlington Field Office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Excellence in Mission Support, Staffing Management Team, Northeast Regional Office, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Excellence in Operational Execution, Targeted Enforcement Unit/Sensor Team, U.S. Border Patrol, Newport Station, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the FEMA Adjudication Team, Personnel Security, Operations, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Safety/Valor Award, Laurent Giroux, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and John Zavala, U.S. Border Patrol; and Unit Excellence, Operations Unit Mentoring Team, Law Enforcement Support Center, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Once again, I congratulate these Vermont Federal employees for receiving these awards.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TEXT OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND FOR COOPERATION IN PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—PM 33

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message